

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 20-22 are canceled herein. Claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9, 11 and 15 have been amended herein. Claims 2 and 4-20 are currently pending. Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 15-19 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 15-19 are allowable.

Applicant has amended the Claims to put the Claims in condition for allowance as stated by the Examiner in the present after final amendment under 37 CFR 1.116.

103 Rejection

Claims 1-8, 11, 12, 20-22

Claims 1-8, 11, 12, 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,157,116 by Sampietro et al. (referred to hereinafter as “Sampietro”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,768 by Eatwell et al. (referred to hereinafter as “Eatwell”).

Claims 1, 3 and 20-22 are canceled herein. Therefore, the rejection with respect to Claims 1, 3 and 20-22 is moot.

As amended herein, Claims 2, 4-8, 11 and 12 are dependent on Independent Claim 15, which has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and is therefore allowable. Accordingly, Claims 2, 4-8, 11 and 12 are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim, and hence a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time.

Claims 9, 10, 13 and 14

Claims 9, 10, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sampietro in view of Eatwell and further in view of U.S. patent publication 2001/0046300 by McLean (referred to hereinafter as “McLean”).

As amended herein, Claims 9, 10, 13 and 14 are dependent on Independent Claim 15, which has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and is therefore allowable. Accordingly, Claims 9, 10, 13 and 14 are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim, and hence a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot at this time.

Conclusion

In light of the above-listed amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 2 and 4-20.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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